

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for displaying text comprising:
  - accessing a document comprising a body of text interspersed with terminal characters and which can be separated into a sequence of text groupings;
  - retrieving an initial text grouping from the document;
  - setting the initial text grouping as a present text grouping;
  - displaying the present text grouping to a user for a respective display duration, wherein the display duration is configurable by the user;
  - responsive to not retrieving a terminal character, retrieving an immediately subsequent text grouping from the document;
  - setting the immediately subsequent text grouping as the present grouping;
  - and
  - repeating the displaying the present text grouping, retrieving an immediately subsequent text grouping, and setting the immediately subsequent text grouping until a terminal character is retrieved.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein each text grouping consists of one to three textual elements.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the terminal character is dependent on a user command.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising displaying the text in a text player.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the terminal character comprises an end of sentence.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the terminal character comprises an end of text.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the terminal character comprises an end of page.
8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the terminal character comprises an end of chapter.
9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the display duration incorporates an excessive character delay.
10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the display duration incorporates a minor punctuation delay.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the display duration incorporates a major punctuation delay.
12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the display duration incorporates a text delay.
- 5 13. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
receiving a forward text grouping command from the user; and  
advancing to a text grouping which is not immediately subsequent to the present text grouping.
14. The method of Claim 1 further comprising  
10 receiving a backward text grouping command from the user; and  
returning to a text grouping which precedes the present text grouping.
15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the subsequent text grouping is a beginning textual element of a previous sentence and the user command is a back sentence command.
16. The method of Claim 13, wherein the subsequent text grouping is a beginning textual element of a subsequent sentence and the user command is a forward sentence command.
17. The method of Claim 14, wherein the subsequent text grouping is a beginning textual element of a previous paragraph and the user command is a back paragraph command.
- 20 18. The method of Claim 13, wherein the subsequent text grouping is a beginning textual element of a subsequent paragraph and the user command is a next paragraph command.
19. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
25 receiving a stop command from the user; and  
stopping the displaying of the present text grouping.
20. The method of Claim 1, wherein the display duration is increased by an extended display factor responsive to receiving a re-read slow command.
21. The method of Claim 1, wherein the immediately subsequent text  
30 grouping is retrieved responsive to receiving a forward word command from the user.
22. A method comprising:

responsive to a command received from a user, retrieving a body of text from a document, the body of text comprising a sequence of textual elements, wherein at least a portion of the textual elements are terminal characters;

5       dividing the sequence of textual elements into strings of sequential text groupings, wherein each string ends with a terminal character, and each text grouping comprises at least one textual element; and

      for each string, separately displaying to the user for a respective display period each text grouping of the string in sequence until the terminal character of the string is reached, wherein a duration of display periods is configurable by the user.

10       23.     A method for retrieving text for display on an electronic device, the method comprising:

      receiving a data stream from a document source, the data stream comprising a body of text interspersed with terminal characters and which can be separated into a sequence of text groupings;

15       generating an initial text grouping from the received data stream;

      setting the initial text grouping as a present text grouping;

      displaying the present text grouping to a user for a respective display duration on an electronic device's display;

20       responsive to not receiving a terminal character, generating an immediately subsequent text grouping from the data stream;

      setting the immediately subsequent text grouping as the present text grouping; and

      repeating the displaying the present text grouping, generating an immediately subsequent text grouping, and setting the immediately subsequent text grouping until a terminal character is received.

25       24.     The method of Claim 23 further comprising receiving a user command from the electronic device, wherein the user command determines the terminal character.

30       25.     The method of Claim 23, wherein the display duration is configurable by the user.

      26.     The method of Claim 23 further comprising delivering an audible representation of the present text grouping through at least one speaker coupled to the electronic device.

27. A text delivery system comprising a text player operable to retrieve a text grouping from a document source and display the text grouping in a display for a respective display duration configurable by a user, the text player further operable to, in response to not retrieving a terminal character, retrieve an immediately subsequent text grouping from the document source and display the immediately subsequent text grouping in the display for a respective display duration by replacing the previously displayed text grouping.
28. The system of Claim 27, wherein the text player and document source are remotely located.
29. The system of Claim 27, wherein the display and the text player are remotely located.
30. The system of Claim 27, wherein the display is on an electronic device.
31. The system of Claim 27, wherein the display comprises a hologram display.
32. The system of Claim 27, wherein the display comprises a "heads-up" display.
33. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:
- access a document comprising a body of text interspersed with terminal characters and which can be separated into a sequence of text groupings;
  - retrieve an initial text grouping from the document;
  - set the initial text grouping as a present text grouping;
  - display the present text grouping to a user for a respective display duration, wherein the display duration is configurable by the user;
  - in response to not retrieving a terminal character, retrieve an immediately subsequent text grouping from the document;
  - set the immediately subsequent text grouping as the present text grouping;
  - and
  - repeat the display the present text grouping; retrieve an immediately subsequent text grouping, and set the immediately subsequent text grouping until a terminal character is retrieved.
34. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

in response to a user command, retrieve a body of text from a document, the body of text comprising a sequence of textual elements, wherein at least a portion of the textual elements are terminal characters;

5        divide the sequence of textual elements into strings of sequential text groupings, wherein each string ends with a terminal character, and each text grouping comprises at least one textual element; and

      for each string, separately display to a user for a respective display period each text grouping of the string in sequence until the terminal character of the string is reached, wherein a duration of display periods is configurable by a user.

10       35. A text player system comprises computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

      receive a data stream from a document source, the data stream comprising a body of text interspersed with terminal characters and which can be separated into a sequence of text groupings;

15       generate an initial text grouping from the received data stream;

      set the initial text grouping as a present text grouping;

      display the present text grouping to a user for a respective display duration on an electronic device's display;

20       responsive to not receiving a terminal character, generate an immediately subsequent text grouping from the data stream;

      set the immediately subsequent text grouping as the present text grouping; and

      repeat the display of present text grouping, generate an immediately subsequent text grouping, and set the immediately subsequent text grouping until a terminal character is received.

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